handloom sector has been permitted in 1987-88 cotton year.

(iv) Rate of subsidy on janta cloth has been increased from Rs. 2.00 per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre w.e.f., 1-3-1988.

Steps taken Ministry of Textiles to get the stay order obtained by powerloom vacated

428. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by his Ministry for the vacation of stay orders obtained by the powerloom sector against the implementation of the reservation of 22 items exclusively for handloom sector; and

(b) what interim measures have been taken/proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of the handloom sector till a final order is passed by the Supreme Court in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) 32 cases pending in eight High Courts have been transferred to the Supreme Court of India for obtaining final decision in the matter. Detailed affidavit in Reply has been filed in Supreme Court in respect of the Writ petition filed by M/s. Parvez Akhtar & others against government of India with a request for dismissal of the case. The Attorney General of India has been retained for appearing in the cases on behalf of Government of India.

(b) The Enforcement officials have been visiting the powerloom concentration areas for survey and holding meeting with local powerloom associations to inform them about the items reserved for the handloom sector. Action has been initiated against the powerloom owners found violating the Handloom Reservation Order, wherever they are not converted by stay order from any of the courts.

Talks with ABSU ..

429. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request to send their representatives to participate in the proposed talks between the Assam Government and the All Bodo Students Union from either side;

(b) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the role to be played by Government representatives in the proposed talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Rise in imports

430. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make a three-point action plan to curb the continuing rise in imports so as to prevent further deterioration in the balance of payments situation in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) how Government propose to implement the said plan and to what extent imports are likely to curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) As part of measures to strengthen the Balance of Payments position, steps are being taken to minimise imports. In regard to import of components and industrial raw materials, a number of measures have been taken to curtail imports by close monitoring of Phased Manufacturing Programmes of production units and thereby acclerating the indigenisation process. Wherever feasible, tariff adjustments and linkage of imports to a unit's export performance will also have the impact of decreasing import demand.